BROUGHT TO YOU BY PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

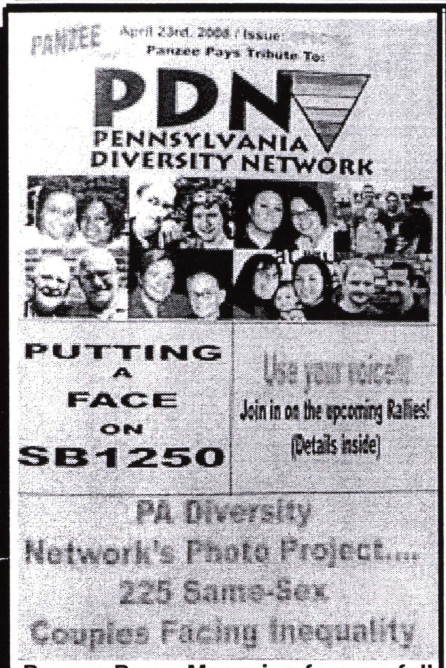
VALLEY GAY PRESS

GLBT INFORMATION SINCE 1998

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 11 NO. 4 MAY 2008

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG



Panzee Press Magazine feaures full PDN Photo Project to fight anti-gay Constitutional Amendment. Read about it & the May 5th Harrisburg Rally on page 2.

READING PRIDE CELEBRATION PRESENTS SECOND ANNUAL STIRLING EVENT

Sunday, May 4, "A Day at the Stirling Mansion," at 1120 Centre Avenue in Reading, featuring a presentation by the Eastern PA Chapter of PFLAG, entertainment by vocalist and Reading native, Brian Gibson, cocktail reception, silent auction. Tickets $30.00 per person, call (610) 375-8209, or purchase at The Red Star Saloon. All proceeds benefit Reading Pride Celebration. Tickets limited to the first 150.

Reading Pride

PA Diversity Network ~ Valley Gay Press
GLBT
Community Awards Celebration

DON'T MISS THIS PDN EVENT - AT THE ALLENTOWN BREWWORKS
JUNE 17 - EVENT BEGINS 6PM - AWARDS 7:30PM
TO READ ABOUT NOMINATIONS & FOR MORE INFORMATION SEE PAGE 2

HAVEN PROM

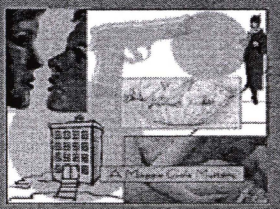
Saturday, May 3 from 7-11 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of LV at 424 Center St. (corner of Wall St.) in Bethlehem. For LGBTQ & questioning youth & their friends 14-20 years old. Formal dress encouraged, but not required. Door admission only $10. Read more about it on page 3.

Old Allentown

Old Allentown Preservation Association signs onto anti-discrimination statement see page 11.

MCC Music Director Brian Jones represented MCCLV at People of African Descent Conference in St. Louis. Read more on page 8.

Angel Food and Devil Dogs

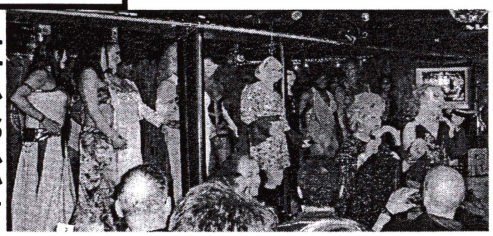


Liz Bradbury

BOOK RELEASE READINGS & SIGNINGS AT MCCLV, WOODS CAMPGROUND & SKYY LOUNGE TO BENEFIT PDN AND OTHER NOT-FOR-PROFITS. READ ALL ABOUT IT ON PAGE 11.

SISTERHOOD

SISTERHOOD EVENT RAISES SIGNIFICANT FUNDS FOR PA DIVERSITY NETWORK, PRIDE AND FACT. READ MORE ABOUT IT & SEE A HUGE PHOTO ALBUM OF THE EVENT: WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.



BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 10.

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.

Dear WTA: Hey, we saw your whole PA Diversity Photo Project of the Same-sex Couples, in Panzee Press Magazine. What's that About? **signed, Photo Couple**

Dear PC,

Bolton Winnpenny, the publisher of Panzee Press, a small GLBT magazine originating in the Lancaster Area with a large circulation that goes all the way to Baltimore, has made a serious commitment to fighting the current conservative effort for the anti-gay PA Constitutional Amendment,. Bolton called me last weekend with an idea. He suggested putting the entire PA Diversity Network Photo Project: 225 Same-sex Couples Facing Inequality into a special extra issue of the Panzee Press so that he could hand out the entire Photo Project to all the State Senators and State Representatives in Harrisburg. I set up the files for Bolton and he managed to do the entire production very quickly. He has already given out the magazines to the Harrisburg legislators. It was an excellent idea and a just the kind of thing the Photo Project was created for -- to put a real face on the group of people this mean-spirited divisive legislation will hurt. There are now 450 people in the Photo Project. I hope every legislator remembers every one of our faces. There are copies of Panzee Press in all the bars and at MCCLV. Great job Bolton!

Dear WTA: I've read that PA Diversity Network is having a GLBT awards celebration at the Brew Works in June. Who gets the awards? I know some people who really have done a lot for the community, can I nominate them for an award? How? **signed A Community Member**

Dear CM,

See the article below....

PDN/VGP AWARDS CELEBRATION EVENT

JUNE 17TH @ ALLENTOWN BREW WORKS

Pennsylvania Diversity Network and the Valley Gay Press announce the first annual PDN Community Awards Celebration honoring individuals who have served the GLBT community. The awards & recognitions will be presented Tuesday evening, June 17, at the Allentown Brew Works during a special evening party. Event opens at 6pm for hors d'oeuvres, conversation, silent auction, PDN Photo Project, raffle, and cash bar. Award ceremony will begin at 7:30pm. Dessert and coffee served at 8:30pm. Tickets: $20 person. Benefits PDN Programs.

If your PA Diversity Network dues are paid up for 2008 you can nominate people in the greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County area for PDN Awards to be presetned at the celebration. There will be awards given out to recognise GLBTA people in the areas of long time service, leadership, faith, the arts, health, civil rights, volunteerism and activism. We have a huge number of GLBTA people in our community who have given significant time and support to the GLBT community. You can read the guidelines about each award and nominate people for awards by going to the PDN web site at www.padiversity.org, scrolling down the home page to the section about the awards celebration and following the link to the nomination information and form. You can also pay your PDN dues on line, if you haven't had a chance to already.

SCOTTY IN THE CITY

By Scott Laubner

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE GAY KIND

When I was a little boy there used to be a song on the radio and the chorus went something like this "I never miss a sunset. I never miss a rainbow. I never miss a movie star walking by." I don't remember any of the verses but the chorus made an impression on me. I never miss a movie star walking by.

I went to the Tribecca Cinema this month to see a great gay film called Shelter. If it ever comes to the Lehigh Valley go see it. The Tribecca Cinema is the home of the Tribecca Film Festival which was started by Robert DeNiro among others, to increase foot traffic downtown after 9/11. I got there early, I bought my ticket and I was buying some carbs with butter at the concession counter. Former Mayor Ed Koch came out of the theater and asked where was the restroom. The first concession guy pointed to a flight of stairs and said down there, first door on the left. Ed Koch hesitated. (He's older and frailer now.) The second concession guy either out of pity because of his age or out of respect because he was the mayor of the city, said "Wait, there's one on this floor. Up these three steps and around the corner."

After the movie I took the flight of stairs down and went to the men's room. I saw a guy in a cowboy hat and recognized him as Randy Jones the cowboy from Village People. So when he came out of the mens room I sang "Y-M-C-A" with the accompanying arm gestures. He smiled, said hi and asked if I was an actor? No I said, just a fan. He gave me his business card, told me to call him and asked if Ed Koch was still in the theater because he wanted to get his picture taken with him. I told him I think Ed Koch had gone home by now.

A couple days later I was grocery shopping at Zabar's with my friend Ray. For anybody who likes to support the little guy, Zabar's is a family owned supermarket that has been around for generations on the Upper West Side. Book sellers set up card tables out on the sidewalk in front of the store. I was looking at the titles when I noticed one of the other book perusers was Jerry Stiller. Turns out he's very approachable. He posed for photos and he even wanted to look at the photos to make sure they came out OK.

Later in the day we were down at Ty's, a great bar on Christopher Street. For anybody looking for a nice, no attitude bar in New York this is it. We're sitting at the bar and I recognize two bar stools down Manuel Torres. He's made some films with Michael Lucas. I rush out of the bar to the video store across the street, then to the Duane Reade pharmacy to buy a sharpie. By the time I get back to the bar Ray has introduced himself. Mr. Torres says "So which of my movies did you get? Encounters 4. This is a good one." Turns out he is very approachable, autographed my DVD, posed for pictures, and even signed a copy of Latin Inches for Ray. **Happy Spring, Chipmunk Readers!**

NATIVE PLANT SALE MOTHERS DAY WEEKEND MAY 10 & 11 AT THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH 424 CENTER STREET BETHLEHEM, SATURDAY 9-4PM, SUNDAY 9-3PM. SEE UUCLVPA.ORG WEBSITE FOR DETAILS. FOR AN EXACT LIST OF NATIVE PLANTS AVAILABLE CONTACTILSE: ZINNES@VERIZON.NET.

PDN SEEKS SPONSORS FOR THE AWARDS CELEBRATION TO SUPPORT THE EVENT AND TO DONATE ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION. SEE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. Adult facilitator volunteers are needed for Wednesday evening meetings. Contact Pete Pellegrino havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com or visit Haven's Web page atwww.uuclvpa. org/haven.

GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level. The spring/summer schedule is now in effect. *** New *** Tennis: Every Sunday at 5:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts starting May 4. *** New *** Volleyball: Every Thursday at 7:00pm at Catasauqua Playground starting May 8. Bowling: the 2nd Friday of the month, at 8:45pm at the Playdrome in Allentown. Pinochle: the 2nd Saturday of the month, at 7:00pm at the Moose Lounge, 28 North 10th Street, Allentown. Racquetball: every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the 24/7 Fitness Club, Allentown.

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, they will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. Email: Info@gloss.org. Website: www.gloss.org.

GLOSS BOWLING

GLOSS Bowling meets on the second Friday of the month, Ira Fine, GLOSS Bowling coordinator, must contact the bowling alley to reserve the correct number of lanes. If you are interested, please contact Ira at: iramfine@aol.com, home phone: 610-767-7363 cell phone: 610-462-4786. Bowlers meet near the snack bar around 8:45 pm, and usually start to bowl around 9:00 pm, which is when the league bowlers are finished. New people are welcome and encouraged to attend. There is no competition, so you do not have to be a good bowler. GLOSS is there for fun and camaraderie with other GLBTA people.

IT'S TIME AGAIN FOR FOOD AND FUN AT THE ANNUAL EASTERN PA PFLAG POTLUCK PICNIC

AT THE KOHN'S HOME IN MACUNGIE. JUNE 22, 1:00PM - 7:00PM. IF YOU PLAN ON ATTENDING PLEASE CALL DON OR MELINDA AT 610-967-5219 TO GET DIRECTIONS AND TO LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOU WILL BE BRINGING. HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

THE GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY PRIDE IN THE PARK FESTIVAL WILL BE SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 FROM 12-6PM AT CEDAR BEACH PARK.

The planning meetings are the 4th Thursday of the month at 8pm. Anyone interested in assisting with the planning process, please contact Shawn Bausher at sbausher@prideglv.org.

GRANT FOR RAINBOW FLAGS

Community Activist Charles Versaggi has provided a small grant to PA Diversity Network to finance the distribution of rainbow flags to fly in front of homes in the Center City area of Allentown. If you live in this area and would like to fly the rainbow colors in front of your home, contact PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 or info@padiversity.org for more information.

LV BEARS

Lehigh Valley Bears meet at the Mooselounge upstairs at the Stonewall 28 N 10th St. in Allentown, at around 8 pm on the first Saturday of every month. Meet at the end of the bar under the moose head. This is a social group. Bears and bear admirers, are welcome. Contact Ira Fine at: iramfine@aol.com or 610-767-7363 for information. Lehigh Valley Bears have a yahoo group :http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lvbears See a definition of BEARS at the PA Diversity Network web site.

HAVEN PROM

HAVEN hosts 4th Prizm Prom for LGTBAQ Youth -- CandyLand is the colorful & fun theme for this year's Prizm Prom, set for Saturday, May 3 from 7-11 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of LV at 424 Center St. (corner of Wall St.) in Bethlehem. Formal dress encouraged, but not required. Chaperoned event for LGBT & questioning youth & their friends aged 14-20 years old. Refreshments provided. Prom Court will be crowned. Photos available for a fee. Door admission: only $10.

This year there will also be an official Post-Prom Party. Special permission required to attend the supervised after-party. The Prizm Prom & the Post-Prom Party are sponsored by HAVEN, the Valley's social & support group serving GLBTQA teens. For directions, visit www.uuclvpa.org/directions.htm. To make a donation to HAVEN, to get a poster for display, or for more info, please contact 610-868-2153 or havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com, or visit www.myspace.com/prizmprom.

GLBT ARTISTS & WRITERS

A new GLBT Artists and Writers section has been created in the PDN web site. If you are a GLBT artist or GLBT writer and would like to be listed, with examples of your work at the web site for free, fill out an e-form at the site at www.padiversity.org/GLBTArtists.html.

GLOSS TENNIS

Sunday, May 4 at 5pm will be the first GLOSS Tennis meeting. Meetings will continue Sundays at the Muhlenberg College courts, 22nd and Turner Sts. in Allentown. For more info, see the GLOSS web site.

I-LEAD PROGRAM

I-LEAD's Partnership with Harcum College is offering their Associate Degree in Leadership at Casa Community Center. Call now for information about this unique program. Miriam Lavandier 610-435-9902 Ext 107 Register NOW to start in September, 2 nights a week for 2 years!

OMICROM FUNDRAISER

Omicron Theatre Project's 2008 Fundraiser! Friday, May 9, 7pm-10pm at Yoga Loft of Bethlehem, Food, drinks, prizes, and fun! Music from BUTTERJIVE, Skits from the OTP gang! Tickets: 20 bucks. Proceeds will benefit OTP's upcoming production of Fat Pig by Neil Labute at Touchstone Theatre!! See www.omicrontheatreproject.com.

GLORA

GLORA - The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown - is a social GLBT group. For details about events, please email GLORA@dejazzd.com or write GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick, PA 19435. GLORA is a non-profit, social group for men and women, singles or couples. New people are always welcome!

LGBTQA TEEN GROUP SPECTRUM IN READING

Spectrum is open to LGBTQ teens and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. on the second floor of PPNEP's Reading media center. Spectrum seeks adult volunteers to assist with the program. Criminal background checks, training and references are required. If you'd like to volunteer, contact sexuality educator and manager of Spectrum, Amber Brown at 610-376-0137.

WILDE - HARING PLAY AT KUTZTOWN U.

...has been postponed until September 4, 5, and 6. Further information will be provided at a later date.

BERKS GAY MEN'S SOCIAL GROUP...

is located centrally in Berks County but the BGMSG is open to guys (over 18) from ALL surrounding counties. Singles and Couples getting together for fun events and meeting each other and building new and lasting friendships. Upcoming events are: Bowling and dinner May 18, outside pool parties and cookouts this summer, trips to Sandy hook, NYC and more and the third ANNUAL huge Halloween Party on October 18. To learn more email berksgmsg@aol.com

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30pm on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County, 416 Franklin St. Reading. For information or to confirm scheduled meetings call: 610.858.9278. PFLAG information: call Help Line: 610-967-5219, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

GAY & LESBIAN EPISCOPALIANS & FRIENDS

GLEF will meet at Christ Episcopal Church at 435 Court Street, Reading, PA for the showing of "For the Bible Tells Me So" on May 18, 2008 at 4pm. For more info contact Dewayne Messenger through www.berksglef.org.

SUPPORT GROUP - BERKS

LGBTQ Support Group at Sanctuary Counseling in Douglassville. Join this group for an affirming, confidential experience of community and support! Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 6:30PM. Services are free for these groups. Nominal donations for materials/refreshments are appreciated. Sanctuary Counseling provides affirming counseling for the LGBTQ community, and is conveniently located for clients in northern Chester, southeastern Berks, and western Montgomery counties and the Route 422 corridor. Please pre-register. 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County. 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling .com VGP Drop-Off spot.

READING PRIDE TO BE HELD JULY 20TH

Centre Park, Sunday, July 20, from 12 noon - 6:00 p.m., 2nd Annual Reading Pride Celebration! This year's event promises to be bigger and better than last year's, which attracted close to 1800 people. More vendors, 2 entertainment venues and a series of community events leading up to July 20. Pride party following the celebration. See www.readingpridecelebration.com, or view their myspace at www.myspace.com/readingpridecelebration.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., New Location see web site. 570-620-1234. Pottsville- 3rd Thursday at 6:30PM, Terrence Reiley Community Building, 216 N. 12th Street, Pottsville: 570-624-3151 or e-mail pflagpottsville@hotmail.com.

Meeting Dates: Allentown: May 6, Picnic-June 22, July1, Aug 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2 Dec. 4 **Monroe:** June 6, Aug. 1, October 3, December 5 **Reading:** April 15, May 20, Sept. 16, Oct. 21, Nov. 18

SUE SNEERINGER DIRECTS READING COMMUNITY PLAYERS PLAY INDEPENDENCE

Reading Community Players will stage Lee Blessing's darkly comic tale of a mother and her three daughters, *INDEPENDENCE,* for a two-weekend run beginning April 25. The production is directed by Susan E. Sneeringer and features Genia Miller, Kathy Newville, Shirley Lang and Rose Azrael. Performance dates are April 25, 26, May 2, 3, all at 8:00 PM, with 3:00 PM matinee shows on April 27 and May 4. Ticket information is available by calling the theatre box office at (610) 375-9106 or online at www.rcptheatre.org, where they can also be purchased.

SYLVIA BY NICOLE HOLLANDER

SYLVIA comic artist and author Nicole Hollander has graciously agreed to let Valley Gay Press feature Sylvia comics. Grateful thanks to Nicole for this swell opportunity! To see more Sylvia cartoons check the Sylvia website: www.nicolehollander.com.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer

SEEKING FILMS, & A PROFOUND LOSS

In my last column on political films I suggested a stop by Blockbuster on the way home from voting in the primary. I'd like to take that back, please?

Back when it started up, Block B Inc. vowed to never, ever, NEVER put pornography on its shelves. Nothing beyond an "R" rating for them. The company was going to do its part to protect young people from filth!...Geez, pander much? Repress even more in a culture that SCREAMS "we're really messed up when it comes to sex and sexuality" much??? As is typical of such corporate marketing, BB Inc. quickly displayed a double standard of epic proportions. I mean, have you really shopped there lately? The place is LITTERED with horror / slasher / screw diplomacy, kill 'em all, rape, torture, then brutally murder the women titles AD NAUSEUM. And, trying to find a classic in a Blockbuster video store is like trying to find a virgin at the Playboy mansion.

Hollywood Video offers a few more titles but neither store even bothers with a "classics" section anymore (I don't think BB ever did). So, it's not like they love movies. They just exist to sell them. Of course, both stores have driven moms and pops out of business (except for those "XXXX" shops downtown or out along the highway!), too, so unless you're ordering online, there's nowhere else to go when you want to see a film you missed at 19th Street or Goggleworks or the cineplex. So I do, when I must. I just don't want to be a party in encouraging anyone else to!

Switching gears...when people die young it is an especially profound loss to all those around them, even strangers. Sometimes especially so. We experienced such a death in the Reading artistic community in March. Young, talented, rebellious, reckless Elizabeth Ruth Martelli. She said it was okay if I called her "Lizzie" and I had the privilege of directing her in two productions, one of a play I wrote. Even though our time together was brief, it was also intense and when I heard she died at the age of twenty-four, I cried. I still can't get her out of my head. I had cast her in a production of Lee Blessing's wonderful play, INDEPENDENCE in February and even though she dropped out just before the accident, and even though Rose Azrael is now terrific in the part, I will always wonder how Liz would have played it. Wonder what she might have become. And, be grateful for every minute I knew her.

If you'd like to come see INDEPENDENCE at Reading Community Players (also featuring Genia Miller, Kathy Newville and the Valley's own, Shirley Lang), we run April 25-27 and May 2-4. Visit our website for more info and to purchase tickets at www.rcptheatre.org.

And, don't forget to wear your seatbelt, wherever you go!

MCCLV FREE MARKET

Nationally, the number of Americans receiving food stamps is expected to reach 28 million in the next year, the highest level since the program's launch in the 1960s. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimated the monthly grocery costs for a typical low-income family shot up 7.2 percent in 2007, tripling the increases seen in previous years (from the Morning Call newspaper).

During the four Sundays of September, plans are underway for MCCLV to offer a "Free Market." Following the morning worship service, tables will be set up and free produce offered to all in need (both in the congregation and in the neighborhood). Gardeners with excess harvest are asked to donate their extra produce to the church so it can be given away. Non-gardeners may participate by giving away produce from sales at the grocery store or from "sell-off" at the Farmer's Market on Saturdays.

If you would like to participate in the "Free Market" contact MCCLV Pastor Beth Goudy at 610-709-8800 or rev.goudy@mcclv.org.

TOUCHSTONE EVENTS

May 3 - Young Playwrights' Festival - Produced by Touchstone Theatre, created by local playwrights - At Diamond Theatre of Lehigh Univ's Zoellner Arts Center: 7pm, $10 performance. Tickets: 610-867-1689, www.touchstone.org or to www.lvartsboxoffice.org. **May 16** - Writer's Soiree – 8pm, A Firehouse Friday event presented by the Greater LV Writer's Group. $5 **May 30 – June 14** Another River Flows - Stories, songs & celebration of LV Black Experience, Produced by Touchstone in collaboration with LV Black African Heritage History Project. $16 / $14 - Fri & Sat, 8pm - LV venues.

MUHLENBERG THEATRE

The 2008 Season of Broadway at Home in the Lehigh Valley -- **Cole Porter's Kiss Me, Kate** - June 11 to 29, Performances Tuesday through Sunday. TICKETS: $34 Adult, $30 Senior, $21 Youth. Groups of 15 or more: tickets $25. **The Who's TOMMY**- July 9 to 27, Performances Tuesday through Sunday. TICKETS: $34 Adult, $30 Senior, $21 Youth. Groups of 15 or more: tickets $25. **A Year with Frog and Toad** (for Young Audiences) - June 25 to July 26 staged for ages 4 to 10. Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Tickets $10.

ALL SHOWS: Tickets are available online at www.summerbroadway.org and by phone at 484.664.3333 beginning April 27th. For group sales or subscriber questions, please email boxoffice@muhlenberg.edu.

MUHLENBERG GSA AWARDS

Muhlenberg Gay-Straight Alliance - End of the Year Reception and Award Ceremony honoring: Aaron Bova and Jan Schumacher Faculty/Staff PRIDE Award; Doug Kupferman for 3 years of service to the GSA as our President. Patti Mittleman, Lifetime Commitment to Pride Award. Thursday, May 1, 4:30-5:30 PM. Questions or to RSVP, contact: Adrian Shanker - Adrian.Shanker@Muhlenberg.edu

DIAMONZ HOSTS BREAST CANCER FUNDRAISER WITH WOODS CAMPGROUND COMEDY DRAG PERFORMERS

A Woods Campground smoke-free drag comedy event at Diamonz raised over $900 to add to a fund organized by Dawn McDermott (totaling $1,831 so far) to donate to the Susan G. Komen Foundation breast cancer awareness fund. Performers from The Woods Campground at the event included Paul Narsavage, Bob Rush (the audience's favorite act trophy winner), Scott Paules, Bob Beam, David Uricoli and Frank McDonough. And Giselle of Diamonz. Thanks go out to Lenora Johnson at Diamonz for hosting this fun, supportive, smoke-free event.

DIGNITY CHAPTER FORMS IN THE LEHIGH VALLEY FOR GLBT CATHOLICS

Dignity of the Lehigh Valley gathers for worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 1900 E. Pennsylvania Avenue, Allentown, PA, the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM. GLBT Catholics as well as friends and straight allies are welcome. All those who express a desire to share in Eucharist are welcome to receive the Sacraments of the Church. Please contact dignitylehighvalley@yahoo.com or visit the blog at: www.DignityLHV.blogspot.com.

CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets, http://www.jrf.org/amhaskpa,610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,

AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK-see **FACT**

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BGMSG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berksgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>

CUUPS -- Covenenat of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV. uuclv_cuups@yahoogroups.com.

Enigma Players -- qacres@prolog.net

equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine -- www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLEF - Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians in Berks County .Christ Episcopal Church, in Reading, 610-374-8269, email info@berksglef.org,.

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.glora.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW- at PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call:610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"

Infoline - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays.. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo groups..com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652.

LVGMC -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org,<www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals:Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitian Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehighvalley@ yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College

PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

MAY 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Muhlenberg GSA Awards Skyy Lounge Games	2 Reading Play Night	3 WDIY Touchstone HAVEN PROM BEARS GLOSS
4 GLOSS Reading Pride Stirling MCC MS Walk HMFF	5 RAA SC	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	8 RAA Skyy Lounge Games Night GLOSS	9 GLOSS Eunuchos Omicron GLOSS Bowling	10 DIG GLOSS WDIY REN UUCLV Plant
11 WDIY GLOSS MCC HMFF UUCLV	12 RAA	13 LVGMC R PFLAG	14 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	15 GLOSS RAA Skyy Lounge Games	16 Touchstone Night	17 GLOSS WDIY
18 WDIY Interweave GLOSS UUCLV MCC GLEF	19 RAA SC	20 LVGMC	21 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM MCC Science Guy Skyy Lounge Games Night	22 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	23 Eunuchos	24 WDIY GLOSS
25 GLOSS UUCLV HMFF MCC MCC Ray Vestor	26 RAA	27 LVGMC Book Release @ MCC	28 HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	29 RAA GLOSS Skyy Lounge Games Night	30 MCC Movie Touchstone	31 DIG

JUNE 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 UUCLV GLOSS WDIY HMFF MCC	2 RAA SC	3 LV PFLAG LVGMC	4 HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS	5 Skyy Lounge Games Night	6 Interweave KUTZTOWN Dance Touchstone	7 BEARS GLOSS LES GROSS Book Release @ Woods
8 GLOSS UUCLV WDIY HMFF MCC	9 RAA	10 LVGMC MCC	11 HAVEN SPECTRUM TEJAS Muhlenberg Theatre	12 GLOSS RAA Book Release Skyy Lounge t	13 Eunuchos GLOSS Bowling Touchstone	14 WDIY DIG REN GLOSS
15 UUCLV GLOSS HMFF Interweave MCC WDIY	16 RAA SC	17 LVGMC PDN AWARDS	18 SPECTRUM TEJAS HAVEN	19 RAA GLOSS Skyy Lounge Games Night	20	21 GLOSS WDIY MCC Drag
22 MCC GLOSS LANCASTER PRIDE PFLAG PICNIC UUCLV	23 RAA	24 LVGMC	25 M PFLAG HAVEN TEJAS SPECTRUM	26 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG Skyy Lounge Games Night Muhlenberg Theatre	27 MCC Movie Eunuchos	28 DIG GLOSS WDIY
29 GLOSS MCC UUCLV WDIY	30 RAA					

JULY 2008

Muhlenberg Theatre

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 LV PFLAG LVGMC	2 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	3 RAA GLOSS	4	5 GLOSS WDIY BEARS
6 MCC TOUCHSTONE	7 RAA SC	8 LVGMC	9 SPECTRUM TEJAS Muhlenberg Theatre HAVEN	10 RAA GLOSS	11 GLOSS Bowling Eunuchos	12 WDIY GLOSS REN DIG
13 GLOSS HMFF MCC WDIY UUCLV	14 RAA	15 R PFLAG LVGMC	16 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM Muhlenberg Theatre	17 GLOSS RAA P PFLAG	18	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 READING PRIDE CELEBRATION	21 RAA SC	22 LVGMC	23 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM	24 RAA GLOSS Muhlenberg Theatre	25 MCC Movie Eunuchos	26 DIG WDIY MCC Picnic GLOSS
27 WDIY UUCLV CUUPS HMFF GLOSS MCC	28 RAA	29 LVGMC	30 TEJAS HAVEN SPECTRUM			

PFLAG - **LV** Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org
Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~inpstua/lvpsa/whatpsa.htm
Quakers-LV Friends Meeting-Rt 512 N of Rte 22 Bethlehem, Worship 9:30am. 610-691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.
Rainbow Families - donniearlucas@msn.com
Ren- Renaissance Transgender Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
Reading P-FLAG- 610-967-5219
Reading Pride - Festival in Reading www.readingpridecelebration. org
SC Sanctuary Counseling G:BT Support Group 1st & 3rd Mondays 6:30pm 515 Old Swede Rd. Douglassville, Berks County 610-385-3155 www.sanctuarycounseling.com
Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
Spectrum -- LGBTQA Teen Group, Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street, Reading PA 610-376-0137
UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@padiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.padiversity.org
Wachovia-GALEA- Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
SANCTUARY COUNSELING- 1ST & 3RD MONS
GLOSS GAME NITE - 4TH MON
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUES
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAY
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
ALLENTOWN PFLAG - 1ST TUES
MCCLV TEJAS WOMANS GRP - WEDS
LV HAVEN - WEDS
READING SPECTRUM - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
JAN,MAR,JUN,SEPT,DEC GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -THURS
GAME NITE -SKYY LOUNGE -THURS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RAQUEBALL-THURS SAT
GLOSS BOWLING - 2ND FRI
EUNUCHOS -2ND & 4TH FRI
MCCLV MOVIES- LAST FRI
MCCLV POTLUCK- LAST SUN
MCCLV WEIGHT LOSS- SUNS
LV BEARS - 1ST SAT
GLOSS PINOCHLE - 2ND SAT
RENAISSANCE -2ND SAT
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNS
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAY
DIGNITY - 2ND • 4TH SUN

MAY 1 -MUHLENBERG GSA AWARDS
MAY 2-3 -READING PLAY
MAY 3 - TOUCHSTONE
MAY 3 - HAVEN PROM
MAY 4 - READING PRIDE AT STIRLING
MAY 4 - MS WALK (MCC)
MAY 9 - OMICROM FUNDRAISER
MAY 10-11-UUCLV PLANT SALE
MAY 16 - TOUCHSTONE
MAY 18 - GLEF MOVIE
MAY 21 -SCIENCE GUY @MCCLV
MAY 25 - RAY VESTER @ MCCLV
MAY 27 -BOOK RELEASE @MCCLV
MAY 30-JUN14 -TOUCHSTONE
JUNE 6 - INTERWEAVE DANCE
JUN 7 - LES GROSS CONCERT
JUN 7 - BOOK RELEASE @ THE WOODS
JUN 10 - MCC BASEBALL
JUN 11 - 29 MUHLENBERG THEATRE
JUN 12 - BOOK RELEASE @ SKYY
JUN 17 - PDN AWARDS CELEBRATION
JUN 21 - MCCLV DRAG SHOW
JUN 22 - PFLAG PICNIC
JUN 22 - LANCASTER PRIDE
JUN 25 - JUL 26 MUHLENBERG THEATRE
JUL 9 - 27 MUHLENBERG THEATRE
JUL 20 -READING PRIDE FESTIVAL
JUL 26 - MCCLV PICNIC
AUG 17 - GLV PRIDE FESTIVAL

RAY VESTER AT MCCLV MAY 25

MCCLV welcomes nationally known openly gay Christian vocalist Ray Vester on May 25 at the church. Vester will be sharing his music at both the 10:30 AM and 6:00 PM worship services. A special love offering will be taken on May 25. You can learn more about Ray at http://rayvester.com

MCC PLANS THEATER COMPANY

On Friday, May 16th and Saturday, May 17th at 8 PM, MCCLV will present an evening of entertainment at their new space at 930 N 4th St to introduce the community to their plans for a new theater company.

The company is currently planning two major productions a year, and evenings of one-acts, performance art, scenes & monologues, and musical revues. May 16 & 17 will include scenes from:

-Fall 2008 musical comedy production of "The Big Voice: God or Merman" - Book by Jim Brochu, Music & Lyrics by Steve Schalchlin. A chamber musical about growing up gay and religious, long-term gay relationships, AIDS, and the spiritual and healing powers of show biz; -Winter 2009 production of "Their Town" by Paula Martinac. A gay-themed comedy on gay marriage rights inspired by the classic "Our Town"; -Fall 2009 production of the musical "Godspell" by Stephen Schwartz & John-Michael Tebelak. Set in a trendy gay neighborhood with a GLBTA cast. -It will also include monologues, musical numbers, and staged readings - setting a precedent for future evenings of performance art/readings/monologues of original material by artists based on their personal life experiences. SUGGESTED DONATION OF $10 AT THE DOOR.

Funds raised will be used to launch the MCCLV theater company. For more information, contact the director, DeanHiatt at robdean@ptd.net

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE LV

Last Sunday of the Month Potluck @ MCCLV follows the 10:30 AM morning worship service, all are welcome! Bring a dish to share. For more information, contact Fellowship Ministry Leader Joleane Ferris at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org
Salsa Lessons with Kayla - 8 Weeks @ MCCLV Wednesdays & Saturdays
"Steve Weiss the Science Guy" Host: Steve Weiss May 24, 1pm Saturday MCC
Les Gross Anniversary Concert MCCLV member Les Gross celebrates his decades with Metropolitan Community Churches in a special Anniversary Concert on Saturday, June 7 at 7 PM at the church. Proceeds to go towards MCCLV's Building Fund. Information: info@mcclv.org
MCCLV Weight Loss Support Group- meets on Sundays following the 10:30 AM morning worship. Information: Stephanie Heller: wishiwasatadeadshow@yahoo.com
Drag Show 2008 - Host: JoJo & Renegade June 21 @ 5pm (setup) 6pm (show start) Saturday Venue TBA
MCCLV and Vision of Hope MCC - joint event bringing together MCCLV and Vision of Hope MCC (Lancaster, PA) meet on June 10 in Reading for a Reading Phillies baseball game. Tickets under $10 info@mcclv.org
Annual Picnic 2008 - July 26 @ 12pm Saturday Emmaus Community Park Women's Pavilion (by Pool)
MCCLV Sunday Morning Bible Study - Adult Christian Education Ministry Leader Robby Schotter is leading an "Inductive Bible Study" at MCCLV every Sunday at 8:30 AM. Information, christian.education@mcclv.org.
Annual Banquet 2008 Oct. 4th @ 6pm Saturday, Lee Gribbens on Main, Emmaus.
Pastor Appreciation Surprise - Host: MCCLV Congregant Oct. 5 @ 11am Sunday
All U Can Eat Brunch Fundraiser November 8 @ 10am (setup) 11am (meal time)

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

THINGS THAT BURN MY BUTT

Things that burn my butt. It may be a moot point by the time you're reading this but why are people calling on Hillary to drop out of the democratic race like she is a spoiler? I think she should stay in as long as she wants... even past November. Even if she isn't the nominee. Even if she doesn't win the White House. Okay, that would be silly but... She isn't doing any harm by staying in. As a matter of fact I believe she is doing good because just by her presence she promotes more discussion of the issues. More food for thought. We have turned into a society that likes things handed to us, our decisions made for us. It's easy to get swept up in what seems "new" and get rid of the "old". But, there is still some serious debating to be done. That said, I'll vote for which ever one is left standing come November. Either Obama or Clinton should be in the White House come January. If not we should seriously think about dismantling the Democratic Party. Hillary has been grooming herself for this run for decades. Why should she step aside just because there is a new kid on the block? It's insulting to her and to the rest of us who want to hear more. Besides I think she should get into the White House, if for no other reason, than to pay Bill back by having her carpet cleaned by the house boy. If you know what I mean. Wink! Wink!

Planet Parenthood

donnieearlucas@msn.com

by Earl and Donnie Snyder

NAUGHTY BUT CUTE

If we had a dollar for every time we heard someone say that our son Lucas has the most beautiful eyes, curliest hair, tannest complexion, or is so cute, we would be rich by now. We have been hearing this since the day we brought him home, and continue to receive these compliments almost everywhere we take him and it gives us great pleasure, except when people compliment us on how pretty our little girl is. We respond with gratitude, and correct them on his gender when necessary, but unfortunately cannot take credit for his genes. Lucas owes that to his birth parents.

We can take credit for how well behaved he is, if only there was some to be given. His behavior is definitely lagging behind and if he doesn't fall into line soon, we will just have to take him for that long promised visit to Christina Crawford's house or maybe just pay our respects to Mommy Dearest at Joan Crawford's gravesite if Christina is not home. We have been reading parenting books, talking with other parents, even our own parents, but ultimately relying on our best judgment most of the time. In summary, little boys are NAUGHTY.

We have been practicing manners with Lucas. The magic words are "please and thank you". That way he can respond appropriately when he is given a compliment. With all the practice, he still hasn't gotten that right. Charm school may be in order. Some people have commented on how Lucas should be in child modeling or in store catalogs and ads. Of course, more than charm school may be needed, boot camp for instance. That idea never truly interested us.

Putting such a high value on his physical beauty was not one of our priorities, but when we realized he may be able to put funds aside for college and his future, we caved in, but only in a very small way. We entered him in a local contest held at one of the malls. He was judged on his different physical attributes and overall stage presence along with other boys his age. Needless to say, he came home with three trophies and an automatic entrance into the statewide finals of this contest, which is supposed to appeal to agents and others in the child modeling industry. Lucas was extremely proud of his trophies and he loved showing off on stage and waving. This local contest turned out to be a fun experience for him.

As he moves up the ranks, we are not so sure it will be quite as fun or intrinsically rewarding, so we have decided to pursue this no further. We decided that he was not going to be the cute little boy with two gay dads, who entered him in a beauty contest. He will just be a cute kid, with two dads. There again, being no mention of the dads being cute, which is just not fair.

Ask a "Family" Lawyer

By Attorney Kate Lynn

Dear Kate, I attended a wealth and finances seminar recently, and the speaker mentioned life insurance as an estate planning tool. How can life insurance benefit a same sex couple?
"Interested in Insurance"

Dear III, Life insurance is a fantastic tool for same sex estate planning. Life insurance benefits are not subject to probate. Rather, the proceeds are paid directly to the beneficiary of the policy. Such benefits are typically payable upon presentation of a certified copy of a death certificate per the insurance contract, and life insurance proceeds are not subject to income tax.

Gay or lesbian partners must show there is an insurable interest when purchasing life insurance, something that heterosexual married couples need not show. However, an insurable interest can be proven by a providing to the insurer a copy of a mortgage in both names, or some other demonstrated proof of joint financial obligations or responsibilities. Heterosexual married couples can leave an unlimited amount of money to each other without triggering estate taxes; this is not so with same sex couples. Our limit is two million dollars, and if that limit is exceeded, the surviving partner can be taxed at nearly 45%!

If your entire estate is less than two million, then you can simply buy a life insurance policy through your local insurance agent. If your estate is greater than that, you may choose to have your partner purchase a policy on your life. The difference is this: if the policy is held by you, it will be considered part of your estate and may possibly be subject to tax. If the policy is held by your partner, it will not be considered part of your estate and will provide your partner with more income.

Probate can freeze accounts and tie up monies for a significant period of time. Life insurance benefits are paid relatively quickly (60 - 90 days), and can provide funds for funeral expenses when needed. Another option specifically for funeral expenses is choosing a plan through www.purplecross.com. You can prearrange your funeral wishes, or just set aside some general monies to help pay for your funeral.

No one likes to consider their own mortality. But by taking charge now, you can be sure that your partner will have monies available when needed, and help your surviving partner during their time of need.

Kate Lynn is a solo practitioner whose primary office is located in Allentown. She can be reached at (610) 435-7770 or on her website at www.katelynnlaw.com. The law firm includes Kate's partner Lori and two unpaid but hard working office dogs, Crockett and Diego.

Disclaimer: The information presented herein is for information only, and should not be construed to be formal legal advice nor the formation of an attorney - client relationship. A qualified legal professional must possess full knowledge of a client's particular facts and circumstances in order to render a valid legal opinion.

BRIAN JONES REPRESENTS MCC

MCCLV's AM Music Director Brian Jones represented the church at the denomination's People of African Descent Conference in St. Louis.

Since 1998, the PAD Conference has been a landmark MCC event and it continues to be an occasion to bring together people of African descent and friends/allies. The conference theme was "On the Move – Stepping Out on Faith," a testament to PAD's commitment to building bridges of support and understanding among people of all races, to address issues related racism and homophobia, and to create together a place where all are at home.

GAME NIGHTS AT SKYY LOUNGE

Volunteer Kim Gregory has organized Thursday night game nights for the GLBT Community at the Skyy Lounge in Wilson, Northampton County at 1500 Washington Street at the corner of 15th Street. There is a $5 cover. Chicken wings and other snacks are provided. Half of the cover fee goes to PA Diversity Network. Call Kim for more information - 484-860-5787.

DONNIE & EARL SNYDER LEAD PDN'S RAINBOW FAMILIES GROUP.

RAINBOW FAMILIES

READ MORE IN THE RAINBOW FAMILIES SECTION OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEB SITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

FAITH PAGES by Adrian Shanker

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING TAKES ON ABSTINENCE-ONLY

Congress held a hearing on April 23rd on the ethics of Abstinence Only sex-education. Among those testifying was University of Texas student, Shelby Knox. Ms. Knox was the feature of a documentary, "The Education of Shelby Knox" which delved into issues of sex education and LGBT rights in high schools. Shelby Knox grew up as an observant Christian in Lubbock, Texas to a pair of Republican parents. She took the "promise pledge" to wait for sex until marriage and she was personally committed to that decision. But Shelby realized that abstinence is not for everyone, and she launched a campaign to allow sex education in her school.

A few years later, Knox's testimony to Congress rings of the needed balance between faith and sexuality in our policies concerning education. Knox states:

"I was born and raised in a Southern Baptist family in Lubbock, Texas - a city with some of the highest rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections in the nation. At fifteen, in accordance with my faith, I took a virginity pledge as part of a ceremony at my church. Even though I was well past puberty, I still held an embarrassingly vague notion of the physiological definition of the act we were told to avoid. The pastor reiterated throughout the virginity pledge discussion how disappointed our parents, church, and future spouse would be if we relinquished our virginity before marriage. Some of my friends already intimately understood this pressure - they were having sex, but taking the pledge to appease their suspicious parents or to inoculate themselves against the slurs reserved for those whose refusal to pledge was seen as a de facto admission of sexual sin".

"While purity pledges were first the domain of religious abstinence-only programs presented in churches, they have gained popularity in secular, school-based abstinence- only programs in recent years. In fact, many of the programs participating in the evaluation of federally funded Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage programs contain some version of a virginity pledge. New research has shown that this component is not only ineffective, but may actually be harmful because they undermine contraceptive use and inadvertently promote risky oral and anal sex among teens who see these activities as a "loophole" in their pledge."

Let us encourage more people of faith to stand up for comprehensive sexuality education.

PDN LIST OF 2008 EVENTS:

May 27 -- Book Release event at MCC to benefit PDN & MCC
June 7 -- Book Release event at the Woods to benefit PDN & The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Fund
June 17-- PA Diversity Network Community Awards Celebration
June 22 -- PDN will participate in the PFLAG Picnic.
July 20 -- PDN will participate in Reading Pride's Reading Pride Celebration 2008.
August 17 -- PDN will participate in Greater Lehigh Valley Pride's Pride in the Park Festival in Cedar Beach Park on Hamilton Street in Allentown.
October 16 -- PDN Executive Director Liz Bradbury will do a presentation on Gay History at the Pottsville PFLAG meeting.
October, 2008-- 5K Breast Cancer Classic, PDN will have a team in this event with a great breakfast at the PDN headquarters.
November, 2008 -- PDN Bingo
November 15,16,17 -- 4th Annual PDN Holiday Art Show
December, 2008 -- Rainbow Families Third Annual Christmas Party for GLBTA families with children. This event is cosponsored by MCCLV.

SEE PHOTOS & INFO ON RECENT BERKS & GREATER LEHIGH VALLEY GLBT EVENTS AT WWW.PADIVERISITY.ORG

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org
Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury
Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan
Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Kate Lynn, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer, Adrian Shanker and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network.**

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Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800
PFLAG Allentown, Reading and Pottsville -- see meeting schedule
Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown
19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown
Lehigh Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem
Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV
10 Libraries in Berks County
Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading
Easy Does It Clubhouse (Berks County),
Reading Community Theatre - 11th & Buttonwood Sts Reading
Allen HS GSA , Reading HS GSA, Gov Miflin HS GSA
Wilson High School GSA, Berks AIDS Network
Berks Mens Social Group, Kutztown Univ GLBT Center
Reading Area Community College GSA
48 S. 4th St., Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:
Diamonz Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown
Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown
Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown
Dreamscape Comics -- 302 W. Broad St., Bethlehem
The Woods Campground
Red Star Saloon -- 11 S. 10th St, Reading
Sanctuary Counseling --515 Old Swede Road, Douglasville

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month. PDN's membership cycle obegins in January. Circulation: 1000-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500, monthly, 35k readers a year.
To Contact Valley Gay Press:
Mail to:PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org
To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.

PDN
PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s_____
Address_____
City_____State____zip_____
Phone_____ E-mail_____

- ☐ Senior dues (over 65) $5
- ☐ Individual dues $15
- ☐ Family dues $20

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.
Make checks payable to **PDN.**

Additonal contribution
$50 $100 other

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

PA DIVERSITY NETWORK MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

PLEASE SUPPORT PDN BY PAYING YOUR DUES NOW

Membership to PA Diversity Network, which brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press, is just $15 for an individual membership and $20 for a family membership.

PA Diversity Network is a not-for-profit volunteer driven organization which supports the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community of the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. PDN's projects include: The Valley Gay Press, The GLBT Infoline, the PDN Resource Web Site, the PDN Photo Project -- 200 Same-sex Couples and Rainbow Families. PDN also fights individual instances of discrimination on a case by case basis, does presentations to organizations, educational institutions and businesses on GLBT issues, and brings the community entertaining and fun activities like special concert events, art shows, community action opportunities, Bingo, and participation with other organizations.

PDN exists and functions financially in great part on contributions and memberships from people like you. Please become a 2008 member of PDN and further support PDN with a contribution. PDN is a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

PAY YOUR PDN DUES ON LINE!

JUST GO TO "MEMBERSHIP" AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG IT'S EASY, IT'S SECURE.

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

VGP is a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of people in the Greater Lehigh Valley and Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline:610-882-0558.

SUPPORT PDN BY SEARCHING THE NET

You can support PA Diversity Network with every computer search **at no cost to you.** Instead of Google searches, start using Goodsearch.com as your search engine (powered by Yahoo) and choose the charity "Pennsylvania Diversity Network." Every search will give PA Diversity Network and all its programs including the Valley Gay Press, one penny. If 100 people search 2 times a day -- that is $730 per year!

PA Diversity provides the community with a great amount of support and resources and this is an easy way to support PDN. Make Goodsearch your home page!!!

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG

LIZ OUT LOUD © 11

By Liz Bradbury

WHAT'S HARDER; WRITING A NOVEL OR GETTING IT PUBLISHED?

Many of you may know that I wrote a lesbian mystery/ romance novel called Angel Food and Devil Dogs. This month, it's being published and released by Boudica Publishing Inc. We are organizing several reading and signing events around the area. I try to never do anything that doesn't support the community, so at least 20% of the net profit of the sales of the books will go to GLBTA not-for-profit groups.

I began writing this novel about 18 years ago. I wanted it to be a mystery with a lesbian detective, because I love to read good mysteries and I love lesbians. The problem was that I couldn't really hit on the key to make the series something I was really excited about writing and other people would be excited about reading.

Then about 5 years ago, I read the wonderful historical novel Tipping the Velvet by Sarah Waters. It's about a lesbian in the 1890s exploring her life. It's well written and it's hot. It was a New York Times notable book. Sarah Waters said in an interview that she had written it because it was the kind of book she wanted to read.

I realized my story needed romance. Actually, more than just romance, it needed smoldering sexual tension that wove through the mystery and spiced it up. Suddenly, I found it was much more fun to write, though it still took me a few years to finish, especially the editing. I'm grateful to a large group of friends who read and critiqued the book. They're all listed in the acknowledgments.

To get it published was a whole different thing. Publishing or trying to find an agent to help you get published isn't like it used to be, even just a few years ago. Major publishers aren't interested unless you are already a famous writer, or at least a famous person. Same goes for agents.

There are so few small publishing companies that actually publish gay and lesbian theme novels these days that it's hard to get them to even look at a manuscript. The few that do exist tell you to send them a "query" letter and not to send any other company one until they have written back, and then they never write back. One publisher turned out to only publish one book a year, while I was waiting to hear from them, they went out of business.

Even if a small publisher agrees to publish your book, you really get next to no royalties, and they will only promote your book for a very short time, usually no more than two or three months. Everyone in the field says an author must do most of their own book promotion, because publishers don't have the resources to do so any more.

After wasting a lot of time trying to do it the conventional way, we decided to create our own company. We started Boudica Publishing Inc. last year and we are not only publishing my book, we published "Displacements", poems by Jean Rubin" in March and we're working on a sweet book of children's stories written by a 3rd grader. Boudica Publishing Inc. is an interactive publisher of progressive and GLBT books. You can read more about it at www.boudicapublishing.com.

I hope to see you at one of the book release events. I'll sign a book for you.

TRISH'S COLUMN ©

By Patricia Sullivan

SOME CHANGE-SOME DON'T

In our January "Roses and Raspberries" for 2007, we "raspberried" two local not-for-profit organizations that had still not signed on to the VGP statement of non-discrimination. they were WDIY, and The Old Allentown Preservation Association. Here's an interesting update.

At it's inception in 1998, the Valley Gay Press asked not-for-profit organizations to support diversity by signing on to a statement of nondiscrimination (see page 12). Some of the organizations that initially signed on in 1998, spoke at city hall hearings in favor of amending the Allentown Human Relations Ordinance to include sexual orientation and gender identity. While most organizations have stepped up to support diversity, a very small number have excused their non-support by (incorrectly) stating that signing on would jeopardize their not-for-profit status and others blatantly said that this kind of activity did not fit into the mission of their organization, but added of course that "they" would never discriminate.

Surprisingly, some organizations that would not sign on in support of equality, continued to request support and free advertising from us on behalf of their programs. Over the years, we continued to try to remind them that before we could give them our services, they would have to sign on in support of equal rights for all people. And sometimes when we asked them again to sign on, time had passed, their boards had changed, and they did sign on and they also changed their by-laws to include strong statements of equality for all people including the GLBT community.

We are happy to report that that is exactly what the Old Allentown Preservation Association did. Not only did they sign on, but they changed their by-laws to strongly support equality, even going so far as to require all businesses they did businesses with to also have non discrimination policies that included sexual orientation and gender identity. Here's to you OAPA!!!!!

Interestingly, after the Raspberries article came out, we also got an email from WDIY. The email expressed shock that we would raspberry WDIY for not being supportive of diversity. The email came from a fairly new employee, so we wrote and explained that the board of WDIY voted to NOT sign on a few years ago, but we hoped WDIY would now vote to sign on and would also include in their by-laws statements of equality for sexual orientation and gender Identity. After 4 months of not hearing back, we wrote them again last week and got an email back saying they were checking with the board president.

There are some lessons to be learned from this experience. First, just as for-profit businesses want our business dollars, not-for-profits want our contributions, support and volunteer hours. Second, occasionally fair minded individuals have a disconnect between, putting it bluntly, using us and supporting us. Third, a GLBT inclusive nondiscrimination written into by-laws and a willingness to sign on to a public statement of equality expresses the true spirit of diversity of an organization. Finally, organizations are dynamic -- they change, and their boards change. So it's important to revisit the decision of various boards to see if they have evolved. Some do -- some don't.

BOOK RELEASE EVENT SCHEDULE

Liz Bradbury will be reading excerpts and signing her novel at several upcoming release events including. MCCLV on Tuesday May 27th at 7pm at 930 N. 4th Street. 10% of the sales of each book will benefit MCCLV and 10% will benefit PDN. The Woods campground at a special Lesbian Open House and Social event (free Woods admission) on Saturday June 7, 20% of book sales to benefit PDN and Breast Cancer Research. Skyy Lounge on Thursday June 12 at 6pm in Wilson (Northampton County) at 1500 Washington St. at 15th Street. Proceeds to benefit PDN. Contact Liz Bradbury or call Boudica Publishing Inc or email boudicapublish@aol.com if you would like to have Liz do a book signing event to benefit your not-for-profit organization.

MCCLV MS WALK TEAM

MCCLV member Kellie Rahl is forming a team for the MS Walk on Sunday, May 4 at the Rose Garden Pavilions in Allentown. Contact klrpsu@rcn.com

POP QUIZ 12

1. Experts now estimate the Iraq war will ultimately cost $__. A. 500 billion B. 1 trillion C. 3 trillion

2. Bush originally estimated the cost at: A. 10 billion B. 50 billion C. 200 billion D. 1 trillion

3. When Asst to the President for Economic Policy Larry Lindsey estimated the cost at 200 billion he was:

4. The current estimate comes out to___ million a day. A. 50 B. 175 C. 235 D.333.

5. That's $__ thousand a second. A.2 B. 3 C. 4 D.5

6. 3 trillion dollar bills taped end to end would reach to the moon and back__times. A. 6 B. 16 C. 60 D. 600

7. $3 Trillion could fund Social Security for ___ years. A. 10 B. 25 C. 50 D. 100

8. It could pay for health care for __ million children for a year. A. 1 B. 278 C. 378 D. 530

9. One billion is ___million. A.10 B. 50 C.100 D.1000

10. One trillion is ___billion. A.10 B. 50 C.100 D.1000

1.C 2.B 3.fired 4.D 5.C 6.D 7.C 8.C 9.D 10.D

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"Angel Food and Devil Dogs by Liz Bradbury, Boudica Publishing Inc., $14.95

FIVE STARS AND HIGH PRAISE FOR LIZ BRADBURY's Debut Lesbian Mystery/Romance Angel Food and Devil Dogs -- When was the last time you read a tightly plotted mystery...that actually had a lesbian main character... who is pursuing and being pursued by another lesbian character...for more than just the vague mention of a relationship?

While Private Detective Maggie Gale is working on a case with her younger sister, attorney Sara Martinez, Maggie is called to Irwin College, to investigate the suspicious death of music professor Carl Rasmus. These two complex mysteries each strike deep emotional chords in this surprisingly artistic Private Eye. As Maggie begins to encounter the cast of quirky, well-drawn suspects; enter...Dr. Kathryn Anthony. She's drop-dead gorgeous, sexy, smart...entrancing...a Muse-- Kathryn beckons, and Maggie follows:

She faced me for what seemed like an age, but what was probably a second. She took a breath, then she made a soft demand, Undress me. That's something you'll be remembering for the rest of your life, flashed through my mind. I hadn't expected anything so specific. My legs almost gave way. I reached for the top button of her shirt. My hands were trembling. I undid two. She put her hand on the back of my neck and pulled me toward her for a long passionate kiss. Her lips were deliciously soft. She tasted wonderful, like everything I'd ever wanted.

The sexual tension builds as the mysteries weave dangerously, keeping you guessing, with Maggie and Kathryn caught right in the middle.

If you are looking for sex, romance, and intrigue (and who isn't) then you've come to the right place. Author Liz Bradbury has infused her savvy protagonist, with strength, humor, passion, intelligence and the awareness that her life is missing something. The result? Maggie has become one of my all-time favorite characters. I'm hoping this series goes on for at least a dozen more volumes. **-- MaryEllen Elizabeth, Valley Gay Press Book Review**

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley & Berks County if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network
GLBT Infoline
PA-GALA
Rainbow Families
Valley Gay Press
Allentown Human Relations Commission
Safe-Space of Lehigh University
PFLAG Lehigh Valley
ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women
GLORA
Pride of the GLV
LV Gay Men's Chorus
NCC GLBT Student Union
The Lehigh Valley Labor Party
EQUAL! at Agere
Metropolitan Community Church LV
OutThere - Cedar Crest
9th Street Shelter Allentown
LV Community Action Committee
GLEE at Air Products
FACT
AIDS Outreach
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV
GLOSS
LEPOCO
GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet
AIDS Services Center
Theatre Outlet
Integrity - Bethlehem
The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre
The Latin Alliance
The Enigma Players
New Covenant Family Ministries
Properties of Merit
Allentown City Democratic Committee
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem
Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance
Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley
Muhlenberg Theater Association
Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley
Touchstone Theater
Congregation Am Haskalah
The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance
The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown
United Friends School Quakertown
LV Transsexual Coalition
Lehigh Valley Transmen
GLEF (Gay & Lesbian Episcopalians &Friends)
Old Allentown Preservation Association

INTERWEAVE KICKS-OFF PRIDE SEASON WITH DANCE

Interweave, the GLBT, Queer, Questioning & Allied Group at the UUCLV invites the community to COME OUT to show off their Pride & shake their groove thang in a smoke-free space. All ages, orientations & identities are welcome to the Pride Kick-Off Dance set for Friday, June 6 from 7:30-10 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church of LV at 424 Center St. (corner of Wall St.) in Bethlehem. Watch out for possible guest appearances & prizes (TBA). Tickets available at door for only $5 (more if you can, less if you can't). For directions, visit www.uuclvpa.org/directions.htm. For more info or to volunteer, contact Miriam @ 610-533-3071 or Allyson at allysondiane@hotmail.com.

QUOTE #1

"It will not prevent one couple from getting divorced It will not feed, clothe or educate a family's child." - Stacey Sobel, executive director of Equality Advocates Pennsylvania at hearings on the anti-gay PA Constitutional Amendment.

QUOTE #2

"I can tell you right now if they had fired every gay and lesbian person in World War II, we would have lost the war." --Out World War II veteran John Cook, as quoted in the Washington Blade

QUOTE #3

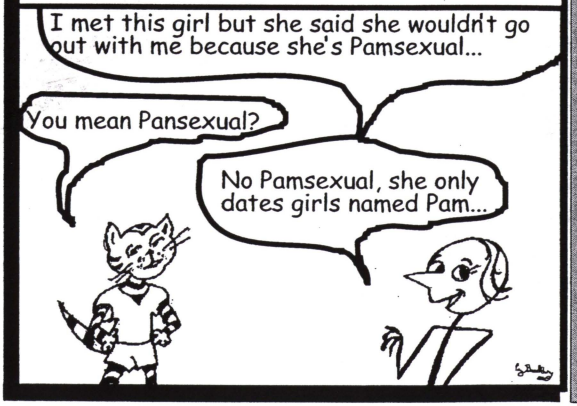
"The "Marriage Protection Act", which is a ridiculous name; no one in Harrisburg can protect or destroy a marriage, only the two people in the relationship can do that..." --Pam Varkony, former Allentown City Councilwoman in her blog

QUOTE #4

"Old Allentown is a multi-cultural, gay friendly neighborhood comprised of lovely historic homes. **-- From an ad in Gaydar Magazine deisgned and paid for by the Old Allentown Preservation Association**

QUOTE #5

"I was elected as a openly gay married man who had never run for a prior elected position. I believe that speaks volumes to the advancement of our community and to the greater acceptance by Rhode Islanders and our fight for equality." **--Openly gay Rhode Island state Rep. Frank Ferri, as quoted in EDGE Boston**



CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S WEBSITE AT WWW.PADIVERSITY.ORG